

advantages as are set forth at page 2 of the specification

Claims 1-4 stand rejected under 35 USC 102 as being anticipated by Boucherie ('176) or Boucherie ('923) or Boucherie ('890) or Boucherie ('368), the Examiner stating with respect to each cited primary reference that "the mold cavities of the first group are arranged with respect to the axis of the carrier arm so as to be exclusively point symmetric to the mold cavities of the second group." These grounds of rejection are respectfully traversed for the reasons discussed below and, specifically because none of the references disclose or suggest an injection molding tool wherein the mold cavities of the first group are arranged with respect to the axis of the carrier arm so as to be exclusively point-symmetric to the mold cavities of the second group. Accordingly, there is no basis for a rejection under 35 USC 102. It is, therefore, respectfully urged that these rejections be reconsidered and withdrawn.

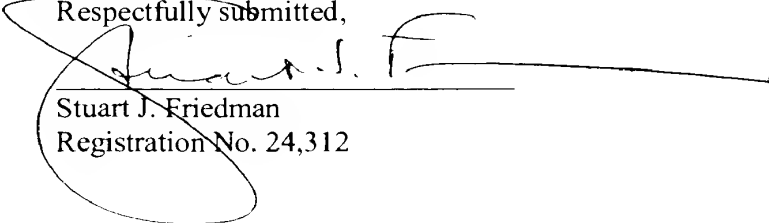
Turning to the primary references and, specifically, to the '176 and '923 references, it is noted that these references are substantially identical. In each, the Examiner refers to Figure 13 in support of the position that the first group of cavities is exclusively point-symmetric with respect to the second group of cavities. As can be seen in Figure 13, the mold cavities of the upper and lower left quadrants define a first group of mold cavities into which a first plastics component is injected. The mold cavities of the upper and lower right quadrants define a second group of mold cavities into which a second plastics component is injected. In order for the first group of cavities to be arranged exclusively point symmetric to the second group of cavities with respect to the axis of the carrier arm, there must be point symmetry but no mirror symmetry or combination of point and mirror symmetry. In Figure 13, it can be seen that the second group of mold cavities are mirror symmetric (i.e., left and right are reversed). According to the definition of "exclusively point-symmetric" appearing at page 4 of the specification, the second group of mold cavities are, therefore, not exclusively point symmetric to the first group of mold cavities. Accordingly, an essential limitation of the claims is not met by the cited references. Therefore, the rejection of the claims under 35 USC 102 as fully anticipated by the '176 and '923 references is inappropriate and should be reconsidered and withdrawn.

The very same rationale applies to the '890 and '368 references which, also, are substantially identical. In each, the Examiner again refers to Figure 13 in support of the position

that the first group of cavities is exclusively point-symmetric with respect to the second group of cavities. Inasmuch as neither of these references contains a Figure 13, and since the Examiner makes reference to Figure 6 in his discussion of the references, it is believed that the reference to Figure 13 is an inadvertent typographical error. Accordingly, these grounds of rejection will be treated by applicant as though the Examiner intended to refer to Figure 6 in support of the rejection. As can be seen in Figure 6, the mold cavities of the upper and lower left quadrants define a first group of mold cavities into which a first plastics component is injected. The mold cavities of the upper and lower right quadrants define a second group of mold cavities into which a second plastics component is injected. In order for the first group of cavities to be arranged exclusively point symmetric to the second group of cavities with respect to the axis of the carrier arm, there must be point symmetry but no mirror symmetry or combination of point and mirror symmetry. In Figure 6, it can be seen that the second group of mold cavities are not exclusively point symmetric to the first group of mold cavities. Accordingly, an essential limitation of the claims is not met by the cited references. Accordingly, the rejection of the claims under 35 USC 102 as fully anticipated by the '890 and '368 references is inappropriate and should be reconsidered and withdrawn.

It is respectfully submitted that the amendments to claim 1 (Amended) submitted herewith have placed it and its dependent claims (claims 2-3) in condition for allowance. Accordingly, an early Notice of Allowance is courteously solicited.

Respectfully submitted,


Stuart J. Friedman
Registration No. 24,312

NIXON PEABODY LLP
8180 Greensboro Drive, Suite 800
McLean, VA 22102
Telephone: (703) 770-9300
Facsimile: (703) 770-9400

MARKED UP VERSION

1. (Twice Amended) A tool for injection molding of toothbrush bodies of at least two different plastics components injection-molded in succession, said tool comprising two mold parts which can be moved relative to each other and together constitute [at least] exactly two groups of parallel mold cavities, and further comprising a rotatable carrier arm mounted for rotation about an axis, with

- one of said mold parts comprising a recess for each group of mold cavities, a mold insert being insertable into said recess,

- partial cavities being formed in said mold inserts, which partial cavities each correspond to a head portion of said toothbrush bodies,

- [- a first one of said plastics components being injected into a first one of said groups of mold cavities, and

- a second one of said plastics components being injected into a second one of said groups of mold cavities;]

- a first one of said groups of mold cavities being defined by all mold cavities into which a first one of said plastics components is injected, and

- a second one of said groups of mold cavities being defined by all mold cavities into which a second one of said plastics components is injected;

wherein

- a) said mold cavities of said first and second groups are arranged on opposite sides of said rotatable carrier arm, said mold inserts being attached to said carrier arm;

- b) said mold cavities are arranged in each group parallel to each other and so as to have an identical orientation;

- c) said mold cavities of said first group are arranged so as to lie opposite to said mold cavities of said second group; and

- d) said mold cavities of said first group are arranged, with respect to the axis of said carrier arm so as to be exclusively point-symmetric to said mold cavities of said second group.